



# DRAFT MINUTES

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 | 8:00 a.m. | 25 House Building

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**Members Present:**

Sen. Jacob L. Anderegg, Senate Chair  
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, House Chair  
Rep. Joel Ferry, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble  
Sen. David G. Buxton  
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore  
Sen. Wayne A. Harper  
Sen. Derek L. Kitchen  
Rep. Cheryl K. Acton  
Rep. Kyle R. Andersen  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan

Rep. Brian S. King  
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss  
Rep. Marc K. Roberts  
Rep. Angela Romero

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Daniel McCay

**Staff Present:**

Gary R. Syphus, Finance Manager  
Alexander R. Wilson, Financial Analyst  
Debbie Benson, Executive Assistant  
Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Senate Chair Anderegg called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

#### **1 . 8:00 a.m.: Judicial Branch (Base budget ? \$171.17 Million)**

Gary Syphus delivered the LFA analyst presentation with a brief introduction to the Judicial Branch. He discussed judicial court workload, funding, and recommendations.

#### [2-Judicial Branch Presentation](#)

Judge Mary Noonan, State Court Administrator, introduced Judge James Gardner, Third District Court, and addressed the program. She commented on the priorities of the Judicial Branch related to the Court's mission statement: open, procedural fairness, judicial efficiencies, and independence. In addition, she addressed budget requests.

Judge Gardner discussed fairness and efficiency at the West Jordan Courthouse explaining that the audio/sound system is in need of replacement.

Judge Noonan continued her presentation with requests: (1) update of Microsoft Office software, (2) Self-help Center service expansion, and (3) recruiting and retaining of court commissioners. Judge Gardner spoke to the importance of the commissioners.

Rep. Hutchings asked if court commissioners have been fully integrated where they can be used to manage the workloads of judges. A discussion followed with Judge Noonan and Judge Gardner.

Judge Noonan continued her presentation addressing a fourth request related to child welfare mediation. Performance measures and reallocations were also presented.

Rep. King asked a question related to the makeup of the Judicial Council. Michael Drechsel, Assistant State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts, and Judge Noonan responded to Rep. King who noted that to his understanding the majority of complaints received were about Justice Court judges. They responded that Utah's state courts have a reputation across the country for being the best qualified, highest quality judiciary.



Rep. Moss asked a question related to the Self-help Center and its accessibility to the public. Judge Noonan and Rep. Hutchings responded. He noted that targeted, efficient capacity enhancement in the courts will help the whole system.

Chair Anderegg asked: (1) is there information you are not getting in a timely manner, (2) do you have the necessary tools, and (3) are we being as efficient as possible? A discussion with the Chairs and Judge Noonan addressing a statewide comprehensive criminal justice information sharing system followed.

Rep. Anderson noted that some juvenile court judges feel the legislature has taken away their ability to be a judge and asked Judge Noonan if there has been any discussion to give them back that authority. She suggested that with the advent of creative services the Division of Juvenile Justice is championing to make sure youth who might otherwise be falling through the cracks following juvenile justice reform are not doing so.

## **2 . 8:50 a.m.: Juvenile Justice Services (Base budget ? \$97.82 Million)**

Gary Syphus gave the LFA presentation for Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) with an overview summary of all things budget related - background, funding items, juvenile justice, and the St. George Juvenile Justice building. Rep. Hutchings asked if the budget is now back to the budget of last year or pre-session. Mr. Syphus responded.

Brett Peterson, Director, JJS, addressed JJS noting that their mission is to change young lives, support families, and keep communities safe. He commented on the JJS Strategic Plan, JJS Data Dashboard, performance measures, and transformational reform. He explained there is a need to continually reinvest at the front end of services through the Youth Service Model.

### [3a-JJS Presentation](#)

### [3b-JJS Facility Map](#)

Nate Winters, Deputy Director, JJS, discussed the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Restricted Account FY20, and responded to recommendations and proposed budget reductions from Gary Syphus.

Director Peterson shared an experience he had with the Governor and youth at the Decker Lake facility.

Rep. Moss commended the directors for their efforts at the Decker Lake facility

Rep. Anderson asked for a report on reducing the risk of recidivism. Director Peterson responded.

Rep. Hutchings noted the improvement being accomplished at both the Decker Lake and Weber County facilities.

## **3 . 9:30 a.m.: Utah Communications Authority Audit**

Gary Syphus introduced the Utah Communications Authority (UCA) audit and reported that UCA does not receive any General Fund. Their funding comes from telephone service charges. Mr. Syphus presented an overview of the office.

### [4-UCA Audit](#)

Brian Dean, Auditor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), introduced Jake Dinsdale, Audit Supervisor, OLAG. He reported that the audit was initiated because of some concerns and complaints about UCA's operations.

Jake Dinsdale, Audit Supervisor, OLAG, reported that the main concerns were with operations and governance, along with concerns regarding 911 transfers. He addressed the 911 emergency transfers and suggested recommendations. UCA's infrastructure practices were reviewed with recommendations. Mr. Dinsdale answered the question of adequate governance by the UCA Board with recommendations to formalize some financial policies and procedures. The audit investigated a suggestion that UCA should be moved into the Executive Branch with a recommendation to put them into the Department of Public Safety. The audit did not recommend a move.



Chair Anderegg summarized the audit presentation suggesting that the audit found a few things that could be cleaned up but there has been great improvement.

Rep. Romero spoke to the issue of past mismanagement and the need to credit the current leadership team and the Board for the improvement.

Rep. Dunnigan asked Mr. Dinsdale about the size of the Board.

#### **4 . 10:00 a.m.: Utah Communications Authority (Base budget ? \$31.41 Million)**

Gary Syphus gave a brief overview of the Utah Communications Authority (UCA).

##### 4-UCA Audit

Dave Edmunds, Executive Director, UCA, introduced Quin Stephens, Deputy Director, UCA. He complimented the auditors on the comprehensive and thorough process of the audit, addressed the legislative audit, and discussed their budget requests.

#### **5 . 10:30 a.m.: Fee and Internal Service Fund Bill**

Alex reviewed the Fee and Internal Service Fund Bill.

Gary Syphus reviewed changes to the fees in the Fee and Internal Service Bill.

Rep. Hutchings asked questions of Mr. Syphus related to the court security fee and the registry removal fee.

Alex Wilson responded to a question from Rep. Hutchings regarding the fees being equal to the cost when funding a state agency.

#### **6 . 10:40 a.m.: Base Budget Discussion/Vote**

Alex Wilson explained the bill.

**MOTION:** Rep. Roberts moved to adjourn.

Chair Anderegg adjourned the meeting at 10:40.